

**APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR GUIDING
AN ENDOSCOPE VIA A RIGIDIZABLE WIRE GUIDE**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides methods and apparatus for guiding an endoscope during an endoluminal procedure via one or rigidizable wires. Rigidizable, or shape-lockable, wires of the present invention have multiple states: they may be flexible to conform to various curvilinear paths, rigidized to shape-lock in any path they obtain, and may be cycled between states. A rigidizable wire of the present invention advantageously may serve as a shape-lockable “backbone” within an endoscope, overtube, or endoscopic tool. In its flexible state, the wire can assume whatever shape the endoscope, overtube, or tool assumes as it is maneuvered. Once stiffened or rigidized, the wire forms the backbone to maintain the static shape of the endoscope, overtube, or tool. Methods of using apparatus of the present invention are also provided.

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